

Dr. von Leers

Prof. W.E.B. du Bois
23 West 26th Street.
New York 10, N.Y.

Martin Haedo 863
VICENTE LOPEZ, FCNGBM
Prov. de Buenos Aires
June 8th, 1955

[von Leers]

Dear Sir,

42-1A-65
with great pleasure I received your kind letter of Mai 31rst which gives me your adress and so the possibily to thank you for the very interesting hours of lecture which your fine and spirited book THE WORLD AND AFRICA gave me. It is for the first time that I find a history of Africa written by an African, who clearly exposes the achievements of his race, which have been often forgotten in usual historical handbooks. It is indeed a very interesting book, and I think I shall write about it and the two other books you kindly sent me-I think they will come in the next weeks some articles for German reviews.

As to German colonialism and its effects on the African peoples, I think that German colonialism has been ~~xxx~~ no more but an historical episode. The best pages of it are in Togo and Cameroon, which were well administrated the natives well protected against deseases and famine and practically no upheavals took place, but the people was led to a sound economical and hygienical progress. In German East Africa there has been a liberation of the Negro tribes from the menace of the slavetraders, internal wars have been stopped and in the "Askari"-Army a wonderful comradeship of African and Germans has been developd, although there were some difficulties and at last one greater sedition of the southern tribes as a consequence of economical difficulties. Generally East -Africa ~~x~~ (Tanganyika) has been a good colony for both parts. The worst pages are in Southafrica, were the Germans coming from the coast and the very gifted Bantu-~~Tribe~~^{west} of the Hereros coming from the Interior clashed and the Hereros had heavy losses; they were cheated by German traders (many jews) and instigated by the British, who gave them weaponá and drove them into the war against the Germans. So the Hottentots- a special race- were driven by religious zealots into a war, which they lost too. Practically these fightings were a disaster in the development of the country. But even then after the war the German Government did its best to restore the situation of the tribes. Practically seen the German colonial administration in all these African colonies came

42-1A-67

last and went first, began its work without great experience, but also without prejudices. If the British had "an iron hand in a velvet glove", the Germans had more "a soft hand in an iron glove"; their rule was sometimes harsher ^{than} the British rule, but the Germans did more for the protection and fostering of the natives. According to their aristocratic tendencies they developed a sort of leading native class, giving more power to the chieftains, strengthening the power of the Watussi -Kings in Ruanda and creating whole a new leading class by the non-coms (Tschausch and Basch. Tschausch- Turkish names they used for sargeants and colour-sargeants ~~of~~ their Askari-Army), all Africans to whom they gave positions in the local administration, when their time of service was over. Specially in East-Africa they created a sentiment of true comradeship of all those, who "wore the Kaiser's coat", if they were Germans or Africans. Although there were German Christian missionaries, German administration was openly in favour of Islam. No African became a colour-sargeant in the Askari Army who was not a ^{stead} stout Moslem, and also in Cameroon the Germans never forgot to give power and dignities to the Moslem Amirs of the North. The Germans were convinced that Islam makes good soldiers and reliable men- and that a Moslim does not drink ^{alcohol} and therefore can be used for positions of confidence. An uncle of mine who was for a long time officer in the Askari Army told me, when I was a Boy: "You must know that Islam is the best religion for soldiers. By disgrace of history we Germans have not got it and now cannot change the situation. But in Africa a negro converted to Christian religion becomes often the ape of the European, imitating him in his worst aspects - but Islam makes him a noble African with a feeling of his own dignity. As an officer I like ~~more~~ ^{better} a noble African on my side in the battle than an ape of mine." Maybe not always in this extreme way, that has been the conviction of many old colonial officers. They did not wish to make the African a slave or a creeper, but a comrade to fight at their side.

Today these colonial days are over. Even if there would be an occasion to get some African colonies back, the German people would not accept them. We feel that the African peoples are ripe or becoming ripe and that colonial rule is outdated. And besides that we are a colony ourselves now: Eastern Germany is ~~xx~~ a colony of Russia today, Western Germany with her mock-souveraignty (foreign troops in the whole country, our boys forced to bear the uniform of USA in a little changed form, all telephones ^{problem} tapped, the so called government without the right to treat the most burning ~~power~~ ^{power} of ours, the reunification of our land, Austria and Saar with 7 and one million German people stolen)

is a colony too, a colony of the USA, England, France - and more of all of Israel. We are an enslaved people and so our sympathies- at least the sympathies of the patriots are with the peoples revolting against imperialism and colonialism. If I had had the money and the possibilities to go to Bandung I should have gone to there to the conference of the Asiatic and African nations to plead for the case of our nation. For us, the Germans, the unity of the white nations has been destroyed - we are a nation made unfree and enslaved and should go with those in the world who fight for freedom against the masters of the globe- may they be communists or democrats.-

The problem of the Jews is a part of that all. In the happy times of the Kaisers the Jews were fully accepted in Germany, they were the richest minority, they had a great influence in economy, banking, law, and even a growing influence in the Administration. Most of the great newspapers were in their hands. There was practically no "antisemitism" of any importance. But the Jews, instead of being thankful to the German nation and to our beloved Imperial House, organized the Marxian movement of Socialdemocracy, preached abolition of the monarchy we loved and introduction of a democratic republic of their own. When in 1918 Germany collapsed, they succeeded to force upon us their Weimar-Republic, a state so completely under Jewish influence that our people felt as godforsaken in its own country. In the hours of deepest despair, when our nation mourned the lost provinces, the lost glory, the loss of the Empire, all we had been taught to like and to stand for, the Jews triumphantly praised their "democracy", the rule of some parliamentary bosses in their services. I was then a boy of 17 years, and I can remember as if it had been yesterday, how bitter I felt when I read the triumph of the Jewish newspapers, their sneer on our downbroken army, their boasting of their achievements how they had brought defeat and revolution on Germany to introduce their democracy. Their definition of "democracy" has always been: "Rule without the people, against the people-but for the people of Israel." Since that time I have fought them and their democracy- I marched with the "Freikorps" in Upper-Silesia in 1921, in the Kapp-Putsch, I stood with Hitler, when he made us free from the Jewish yoke.- From the moment when Hitler came into power and the Jews emigrated, they did their best to bring war on Germany, to force Germany down and to bring our country again under their heels. They mobilized all forces they could find in the world- and in 1945 they were again masters

42-1A-66

4.

42-1A-68
of downtrodden, destroyed Germany. After the last fightings in Thuringia I fell
myself into the hands of the American Army. I have been in the horrible star-
vation camps of Ohrdruf and Schwarzenborn, most run by jews; the 13th december
of 1946 I managed to flee from the concentration camp of Darmstadt, fell into
the hands of the Russians, escaped again and after 3 years of living underground
I could reach this wonderful Argentina and save my wife and my daughter from
the hell in the subjugated country. Germany is again under the heels of jewish
colonialism, the leading posts behind the screens are in the hands of jews,
while millions of refugees live in poverty, the Jews and even the state of
Israel get enormous sums of "reparations" and every word of protest against
jewish rule is punished as "antisemitism". The fighting of our people for free-
dom from the Jews is misrepresented as racial persecutions and the gullible
international press is filled with a completely unilateral description of
the whole history. - I personally am prepared to admire the high intelligence
of the jewish people, their great efforts in constructing their state of
Israel, their spirit of sacrifice and the energy by which they fight for
their aims. But I don't want to be their slave nor to tolerate them as masters
of my country and my nation. - I think there are many Africans too who admire
the achievements and energy of the British, their heroism and their cunning-
but don't want to be their servants. Such Africans will understand me. My many
Arab friends who have got a good impression of what jewish imperialism and
colonialism means, understand me well.

I am very thankful that you allowed me to expose a little my own point of view.
I don't think that I can convince you of all my feelings, but I should feel
particularly happy, if a man like you who has done so much for the sake of
this race and his people will understand me. We are all products of this
"tornado century" we are born in and must do our best to stand for what we
believe to be good and our duty.

With the best wishes

very sincerely yours

Jr vom Leers